

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail,

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel.

2. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each mullion has laterally extending supports on opposite sides of the mullion for engaging and supporting insulation panels between adjacent pairs of mullions in use.
3. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the supports include a pair of fins which project outwardly at opposite sides of the mullion.
4. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the fins are mounted intermediate a front outer end and a rear inner end of the mullion.
5. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the fins extend between a top and a bottom of the mullion.
6. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 3 wherein ribs project outwardly of the side of the mullion spaced-apart from each fin, forwardly of the fin, to define with an inner end of the fin a seal retaining channel on the mullion.
7. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein each mullion has a pair of re-entrant slots adjacent the inner end of the mullion and extending between a top and a bottom of the mullion at opposite sides of the mullion, each of said slots for sliding reception of an associated mullion nut bar which co-operates with a complementary anchor nut bar and lock nut for clamping engagement of the anchor means between said nut bars.

8. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the retaining clip is L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and a downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end a head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail.
9. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 8 wherein a hooked lip is provided at an outer end of the top plate projecting upwardly from the top plate, said hooked lip being engagable within a complementary receiver slot at a front of the rail.
10. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bottom of the cladding panel is supported along substantially all of its length upon the lower rail.
11. (Currently Amended) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the anchor means includes a plurality of anchor brackets, each anchor bracket being L-shaped having an inner anchor plate for attachment to the floor or wall of the building structure and a mullion support plate extending perpendicularly outwardly at one end of the anchor plate for attachment to a mullion, and complementary interengagable formations are provided upon associated mating faces of each anchor bracket mullion support plate and mullion.
12. (Currently Amended) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the complementary interengagable formations comprise mating serrations on the mullion and on the mullion support plate of the anchor[.] bracket.

13. (Currently Amended) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the serrations on the mullion and on the mullion support plate of the anchor bracket have ridges arranged in a vertical orientation.
14. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each mullion has two mutually perpendicular side faces of different depth.
15. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a reentrant slot is provided along a face of the mullion for receipt of a mounting bolt having a head and a shank, the head being slidably captured within the slot with the shank projecting outwardly of the slot for attachment to a mullion anchor means.
16. (Original) A stone cladding system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lower rail has an outwardly projecting panel support arm with an upturned flange at an outer end of the arm which is engagable within a mounting slot extending along a bottom edge of the panel.
- 17-18. (Cancelled)
19. (Amended) A stone cladding system including:
- a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,
- mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail,

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel,

the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and a downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end a head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail,

a hooked lip being provided at an outer end of the top plate projecting upwardly from the top plate, said hooked lip being engagable within a complementary receiver slot at a front of the rail.

20. (Amended) A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail,

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel,

the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and a downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end a head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail.

21. (Amended) A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail,

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail,

each retaining clip having an inner end and an outer end, said inner end of the clip being adapted for snap engagement with the upper rail, and said outer end of the clip having a retaining arm engagable within a slot extending along a top edge of the cladding panel,

the retaining clip being L-shaped having a horizontal top plate and a downwardly extending arm at an outer end of the top plate, said top plate being cranked intermediate its ends and having at its inner end a head for snap engagement with a complementary receiver slot in the rail,

a hooked lip being provided at an outer end of the top plate projecting upwardly from the top plate, said hooked lip being engagable within a complementary receiver slot at a front of the rail.

22. (Amended) A stone cladding system including:

a plurality of stone cladding panels secured to a building structure to form a wall by mounting means engagable between the building structure and each panel,

mounting means for each cladding panel comprising a pair of cladding panel support rails, namely an upper rail and a lower rail,

means for mounting said rails in a substantially horizontal orientation and vertically spaced-apart on the building structure, the rails being mounted upon a plurality of spaced-apart vertical mullions having associated anchor means for supporting the mullions in an upright orientation on the building structure,

each mullion having laterally extending supports on opposite sides of the mullion for engaging and supporting insulation panels between adjacent pairs of mullions in use,

a bottom of the cladding panel engaging and seating on the lower rail,

one or more retaining clips being provided for securing the top of the cladding panel to the upper rail.